(a) whether it is a fact that due to interest of the students of the Rutgers University of America, the University has planned to introduce courses on Hinduism; and

(b) whether Government would endeavour to ensure that those courses are of requisite level and are not insulting for the Indians?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) As per information available with the Ministry, the Rutgers University has decided to introduce a Summer Programme on Hindu Studies starting this year. The Programme offers courses covering different elements and approaches to Hindu Philosophy and Culture, including courses on Hinduism through its narrative Tradition; Hindu Rituals, Festivals and Symbols; Hindu Philosophy; and Hinduism and Modernity. Members of the Advisory Council of the Programme and faculty members who will be teaching the courses are all highly qualified and eminent people, mostly of Indian origin. The curriculum for the Programme has been prepared by Professor Edwin Bryant at the Department of Religion in Rutgers University in consultation with teachers from other institutions. Prof. Bryant has several publications on Hindu Philosophy to his credit.

Lucrative plan for overseas Indians

3878. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have drawn up lucrative plans for overseas Indians including establishment of a university;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether these plans are going to be beneficial for the country and to NRIs as well; and

(d) if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) and (b) (i) Government has launched Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) Scheme in which eligible Overseas Indians are issued an OCI Registration Booklet and a life-long multiple entry, multi-purpose visa sticker. OCIs are also granted parity with Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) in the economic, financial and educational fields; Government is also

considering to extend parity to OCIs with NRIs in all fields except those specified under Section 7(B) (1) of the Citizenship Act, 1955; (ii) Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children (SPDC) lanuched in 2006 provides admission-cum-scholarships to children of overseas Indians in technical and higher educational institutions in India; and (iii) a policy framework for setting up a NRI-PIO University at a suitable place in the country, ensuring flexibility in the choice of disciplines and courses offered, has been approved by the Government.

(c) and (d) The above Schemes will meet the aspiration of the overseas Indians and also fulfill commitment made at the highest level to-overseas Indians. Engagement with Indian diaspora is mutually beneficial.

Fraud marriage bureaus

3879. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that some fraud marriage bureaus are involved in fraudulent activities, as consequence of which innocent Indian women are victimized by some NRIs, after marrying them through these bureaus;

(b) if so, the action Ministry has taken to immediately stop these types of fraudulent activities;

(c) whether any cases against these bureaus have been registered; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRI VAYALAR RAVI): (a) to (d) The Information is being collected and would be laid on the Table of the House.

Indians with dual citizenship

†3880. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.